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JUSTICE THROUGH SIMPLIFIED LEGAL PROCEDURE. Edited by CARL KELSEY and HENRY W. JESSUP. Philadelphia: AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE. 1917. pp. vii, 251.

The present volume is a collection of studies discussing various topics in the broad field of legal reform, but confined, for the most part, to the consideration of the organization of the courts and the rules governing practice before them. The existing apportionment of jurisdiction among the different state courts is, in most states, including New York, based on no principles of common sense or practical convenience, but is almost wholly the result of historical accident or political expediency. The proposal to substitute for the present chaotic system the more highly centralized and, at the same time, more flexible organization of the English courts should receive general approval. It would also seem beyond argument that the present lengthy and obscure codes of procedure tend to delay and defeat justice, and that the establishment of a short practice act and the general substitution of rules of court for multifarious legislative enactments would serve to obviate much of the dissatisfaction now expressed both by laymen and lawyers. The suggested changes in the law of evidence, since they would vitally affect the present jury system, may not meet with equal approval. It should be noted, however, that there seems to be a tendency to relax the technical rules of evidence in favor of quasi-judicial boards, such as workmen's compensation boards.

Whatever the opinion of the reader may be on specific questions of legal reform, he will find this volume both informative and inspiring. It is in every way a valuable contribution to the ever-increasing body of literature upon the subject.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED:

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